

## Antioxidant Activities of Phenolic Derivatives from *Dipsacus asper* Wall. (II)

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**Abstract** – The six phenolic compounds isolated from the root of *Dipsacus asper*, 3,4-di-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid (**1**), methyl 3,4-di-*O*-caffeoyl quinate (**2**), 3,5-di-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid (**3**), methyl 3,5-di-*O*-caffeoyl quinate (**4**), 4-5-di-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid (**5**), methyl 4,5-di-*O*-caffeoyl quinate (**6**) were continuously evaluated for their antioxidant activity using superoxide radical scavenging and AAPH-mediated (LDL) oxidation assay. The results demonstrated that compounds **1** - **6** had remarkable antioxidant activities with the IC<sub>50</sub> values ranging from 12.0 to 2.8 μM in superoxide radical scavenging. They also inhibited AAPH-mediated low-density lipoprotein LDL oxidation by the generation of thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) with IC<sub>50</sub> ranging from 6.7 to 8.7 μM.

**Keywords** – *Dipsacus asper*, Dipsacaceae, phenolic, superoxide radical scavenging, low-density lipoprotein

### Introduction

In recent years, the physiological functionality of medicinal plants and foods have received much attention due to the increasing interest in human health and have been studied in vitro and in vivo by many researchers. The antioxidative action, one of the important physiological functions of medicines, is supposed to protect living organisms from oxidative damages, resulting in the prevention of various diseases such as cancer and diabetes. Furthermore, the antioxidative activities of many plants have been evaluated, and their antioxidants properties have been identified (Herrman, 1976). The occurrence of various kinds antioxidative phenolic compounds, including flavonoids, diarylheptanoids, have been shown to be powerful antioxidants in vitro (Vinson *et al.*, 1995), and the close relations of phenolics to the antioxidative activity have been reported (Osawa *et al.*, 1994; Veliogu *et al.*, 1998).

*Dipsacus asper* Wall (Dipsacaceae) is a perennial herb that natively distribute in China. The roots of this plant have been used in traditional Chinese and Vietnamese medicine as an analgesic, and anti-inflammatory agent, for enhancement of liver, and for the treatment of fractures (Namba, 1993; Loi, 2001). Previously, it is

reported that triterpene glycosides and iridoid glycosides are major components of this plant (Kouno *et al.*, 1990; Jung *et al.*, 1993; Tomita and Mouri, 1996). In addition, pharmacological studies demonstrated that the saponins from *D. asper* possessed anticomplementary (Oh *et al.*, 1999), antinociceptive and neuroprotective activities (Suh *et al.*, 1996; Zhang *et al.*, 2003). As a part of continuing studies on chemical constituents and antioxidant activities of *D. asper*, we have found that the root this plant contents phenolic compounds as caffeoyl quinic derivatives (Hung *et al.*, 2006). These compounds were found to be potent scavengers of the free radical 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) and they also inhibited Cu<sup>2+</sup>-mediated low-density lipoprotein (LDL) oxidation by increasing the lag time of conjugated dienes formation and inhibited the generation of thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) in the dose-dependent manners (Hung *et al.*, 2006). In this present study, we wish to report in detail the isolation, structure elucidation and antioxidant activity of these compounds using the NBT reduction method in superoxide radical scavenging assay as well as LDL oxidation which initiated by the thermolabile radical indicator (AAPH).

### Experimental

**Plant material** – The dried root of *Dipsacus asper*

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Wall was obtained from the local Yuseong Herbal market. The voucher specimen (No. CNU 1284) has been botanically identified by Professor KiHwan Bae and deposited in the herbarium of the College of Pharmacy, Chungnam National University, Daejeon, Korea.

**Chemical reagents** – Xanthine, xanthin oxidase, nitro blue tetrazolium (NBT), 2,2'-azobis-2-methyl-propanimidamide dihydrochloride (AAPH), caffeic acid, quercetin, were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co., USA. Organic solvents were purchased from DaeJung Chemical & Metals Co. Ltd, Korea.

**General procedure** – Column chromatographic packing materials: Kieselgel 60; 70 - 23, 230 - 400 mesh (Merck, Germany), YMC-gel (OSD-A, 12 nm, S-150  $\mu$ m), pre-coated TLC: Kieselgel 60 and F<sub>254</sub>, RP-18 F<sub>254</sub> (Merck, Germany). Preparative MPLC was carry out on Yamazen MPLC system with pump 540; detector Prep UV-10V; ULTRA PACK ODS-S-50A column (11  $\times$  300 mm). Melting point was taken on Electrothermal apparatus. The IR spectra were determined on a Hitachi 270 - 30 type spectrometer with KBr discs. The optical rotations were determined on a JASCO DIP-370 digital polarimeter. FAB-MS was taken in MeOH and obtained using a JEOL JMS-DX 300 spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C

NMR (100 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker-AM600 FT-NMR unit and chemical shift are expressed as  $\delta$  values using TMS as an internal standard.

**Extraction and isolation** – The air-dried root of *Dipsacus asper* (2 kg) was extracted with MeOH at room temperature for 6 days and the solution was dried *in vacuo*. The MeOH extract (240 g) was resuspended in H<sub>2</sub>O and partitioned with hexane, EtOAc and BuOH, sequentially. The EtOAc-soluble fraction (25 g), that showed antioxidant activity with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 12.9 and 8.8  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively, in the DPPH and LDL oxidation assays, was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (5  $\times$  30 cm) using a CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH gradient (from 100 : 1 to 0 : 1) to yield 10 fractions (Fr. 1 - 10). Fr. 7 (1.2 g), which was obtained from CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH (6 : 1), was chromatographed over a silica gel column (3 cm  $\times$  30 cm), eluted with a mixture of CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (4 : 1 : 0.1), to give three subfractions (Fr. 7.1 - 7.3). Fr. 7.2 was subjected to YMC column chromatography (2  $\times$  50 cm) eluting with MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (3 : 2) to give three fractions (Fr. 7.2.1 - 7.2.3). Repeat chromatograph fraction Fr. 7.2.1 on an RP-18 column (1.5  $\times$  30 cm) eluted with MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (1 : 1) to yield compounds **5** (11 mg) and **4** (8 mg). Fr. 7.2.2 was subjected to MPLC on ODS column (11  $\times$  300 mm, Yamazen), eluted with MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (1 : 1.5) (flow rate: 2 mL/min, UV 254 nm) to afford compound **3**

(17 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 14 min) and **6** (7 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 16 min). Further purification of fraction Fr. 7.2.3 using MPLC with the similar above conditions resulted in the isolation of compounds **1** (13 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 20 min) and **2** (9 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 25 min).

**Compound 1** – Colorless plates; mp. 155 - 158 °C; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (KBr): 3400 (OH), 3300 - 2800 (COOH), 2958 (CH), 1719 (C = O), 1523, 1458 (C = C) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV  $\lambda_{\max}$  (MeOH): 219, 248, 293, 329 nm; FAB-MS *m/z* 517 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-*d*<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.21 (1H, dd, H-2*eq*), 2.27 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.0 Hz, H-2*ax*), 5.07 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.0 Hz, H-3), 5.57 (1H, ddd, *J* = 5.8 Hz, H-4), 4.32 (1H, br d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, H-5), 2.05 (1H, br d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, H-6*eq*), 2.07 (1H, br d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, H-6*ax*), 6.95 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.2 Hz, H-2'), 6.97 (1H, d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, H-2''), 6.68 (1H, d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, H-5'), 6.70 (1H, d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, H-5''), 6.86 (1H, d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, H-6'), 6.86 (1H, d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, H-6''), 7.56 (1H, d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, H-7'), 7.52 (1H, d, H-7''), 6.19 (1H, d, H-8'), 6.21 (1H, d, H-8''). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, MeOH-*d*<sub>4</sub>) spectral data were in accordance with published data.

**Compound 2** – Colorless plates; mp. 133 - 135 °C; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (KBr): 3368 (OH), 2927 (CH), 1710 (C = O), 1543, 1458 (C = C), 1273 (C-O) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV  $\lambda_{\max}$  (MeOH) 216, 246, 296, 327 nm; FAB-MS *m/z* 531 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-*d*<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.22 (1H, dd, H-2*eq*), 2.26 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.0 Hz, H-2*ax*), 5.07 (1H, m, H-3), 5.43 (1H, m, H-4), 4.30 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.7 Hz, H-5), 2.02 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.5 Hz, H-6*eq*), 2.06 (1H, dd, *J* = 4.2 Hz, H-6*ax*), 3.67 (3H, s, H-8), 6.98 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.3 Hz, H-2'), 6.96 (1H, d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, H-2''), 6.71 (1H, d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, H-5'), 6.69 (1H, d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, H-5''), 6.69 (1H, d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, H-6'), 6.89 (1H, d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, H-6''), 7.57 (1H, d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, H-7'), 7.47 (1H, d, H-7''), 6.36 (1H, d, H-8'), 6.23 (1H, d, H-8''). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, MeOH-*d*<sub>4</sub>) spectral data were in accordance with published data.

**Compound 3** – Colorless plates; mp. 150 - 153 °C; FAB-MS *m/z* 517 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-*d*<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.23 (1H, dd, H-2*eq*), 2.28 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.0 Hz, H-2*ax*), 5.37 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.2 Hz, H-3), 3.92 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, H-4), 5.33 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.5 Hz, H-5), 2.09 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.3 Hz, H-6*eq*), 2.12 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.8 Hz, H-6*ax*), 7.01 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.3 Hz, H-2'), 7.01 (1H, d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, H-2''), 6.74 (1H, d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, H-5'), 6.72 (1H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, H-5''), 6.91 (1H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, H-6'), 6.91 (1H, d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, H-6''), 7.58 (1H, d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, H-7'), 7.54 (1H, d, H-7''), 6.32 (1H, d, H-8'), 6.23 (1H, d, H-8''). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, MeOH-*d*<sub>4</sub>) spectral data were in accordance with published data.

**Compound 4** – Yellow gum; mp. 145 - 146 °C; FABMS *m/z* 531 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, MeOH-*d*<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.25 (1H, dd, H-2*eq*), 2.27 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.2 Hz, H-2*ax*),

5.35 (1H, dd,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, H-3), 3.92 (1H, dd,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, H-4), 5.33 (1H, dd,  $J = 3.5$  Hz, H-5), 2.08 (1H, dd,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, H-6 $eq$ ), 2.11 (1H, dd,  $J = 3.8$  Hz, H-6 $ax$ ), 3.67 (3H, s, H-8), 7.01 (1H, d,  $J = 13.3$  Hz, H-2'), 6.98 (1H, d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, H-2''), 6.74 (1H, dd,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, H-5'), 6.73 (1H, d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, H-5''), 6.92 (1H, d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, H-6'), 6.90 (1H, d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, H-6''), 7.55 (1H, d,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, H-7'), 7.47 (1H, d, H-7''), 6.31 (1H, d, H-8'), 6.27 (1H, d, H-8'').  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (100 MHz, MeOH- $d_4$ ) spectral data were in accordance with published data.

**Compound 5** – Yellow powder; mp. 161 - 162 °C; FAB-MS  $m/z$  517  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ ;  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (400 MHz, MeOH- $d_4$ )  $\delta$ : 2.28 (1H, dd, H-2  $eq$ ), 2.32 (1H, dd,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, H-2 $ax$ ), 4.28 (1H, dd,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, H-3), 4.99 (1H, dd,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, H-4), 5.55 (1H, dd,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, H-5), 2.06 (1H, dd,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, H-6  $eq$ ), 2.15 (1H, dd,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, H-6  $ax$ ), 6.98 (1H, dd,  $J = 14.2$  Hz, H-2'), 6.97 (1H, d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, H-2''), 6.72 (1H, d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, H-5'), 6.69 (1H, d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, H-5''), 6.87 (1H, d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, H-6'), 6.87 (1H, d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, H-6''), 7.52 (1H, d,  $J = 16.3$  Hz, H-7'), 7.48 (1H, d, H-7''), 6.32 (1H, d, H-8'), 6.21 (1H, d, H-8'').  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (100 MHz, MeOH- $d_4$ ) spectral data were in accordance with published data.

**Compound 6** – Yellow powder; mp. 140 - 143 °C; FAB-MS  $m/z$  531  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ ;  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (400 MHz, MeOH- $d_4$ )  $\delta$ : 2.22 (1H, ddd, H-2 $eq$ ), 2.29 (1H, ddd, H-2 $ax$ ), 4.29 (1H, dd,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, H-3), 5.49 (1H, dd,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, H-4), 5.06 (1H, dd,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, H-5), 2.02 (1H, ddd, H-6 $eq$ ), 2.20 (1H, dd,  $J = 3.8$  Hz, H-6 $ax$ ), 3.67 (3H, s, H-8), 7.01 (1H, d,  $J = 14.2$  Hz, H-2'), 6.92 (1H, d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, H-2''), 6.74 (1H, dd,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, H-5'), 6.71 (1H, d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, H-5''), 6.88 (1H, d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, H-6'), 6.85 (1H, d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, H-6''), 7.57 (1H, d,  $J = 16.3$  Hz, H-7'), 7.47 (1H, d, H-7''), 6.26 (1H, d, H-8'), 6.19 (1H, d, H-8'').  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (100 MHz, MeOH- $d_4$ ) spectral data were in accordance with published data.

**Xanthine/Xanthine Oxidase assay** – The assay was carried out basically according to the method of Beauchamp and Fridovich (Paya *et al.*, 1992; Masaki *et al.*, 1995) with some modifications. The 495  $\mu\text{L}$  assay mixture consisted of 50 mM sodium carbonate buffer (pH 10.2), 0.1 mM xanthine and 25  $\mu\text{M}$  nitro blue tetrazolium (NBT). The reaction was initiated by addition of 5  $\mu\text{L}$  20 nM xanthine oxidase in the presence or absence of each compound. The increase in absorbance at 560 nm was read after 5 min on a spectrophotometer (Shimadzu UV-1240, Japan). Superoxide radical scavenging activity was expressed by the degree of NBT reduction decrease of test group in comparison with that of the control group and calculated by the following equation:

$$\text{Scavenging activity (\%)} = \frac{[\text{Ac} - \text{As}]}{[\text{Ac} - \text{Ab}]} \times 100$$

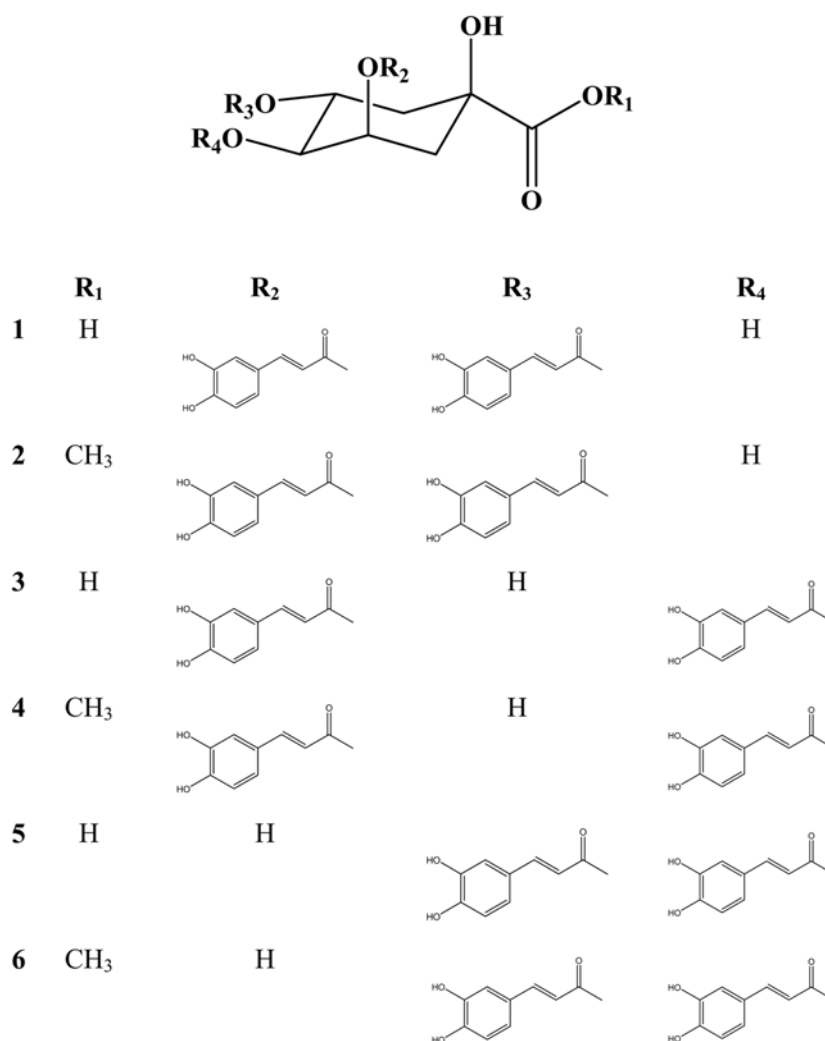
Where Ac was the absorbance of the control, As was the absorbance of the sample and Ab was the absorbance of the blank (where xanthine oxidase was not added). The  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values were defined as the concentration that cause 50% decrease in NBT reduction.

**LDL preparation** – Blood was drawn from healthy normolipidemic volunteers and human LDL was prepared from plasma by sequential flotation ultracentrifugation as described previously (Kerry and Abbey, 1998). Briefly, plasma was centrifuged at 43,800 rpm for 20 h at 4 °C in Beckman T8-M ultracentrifuge and then chylomicron and very low-density lipoprotein floating to the top of tube was removed. Other supernatants were collected, and adjusted to  $d = 1.063$  g/mL using NaBr and centrifuged at 43,800 rpm for 28 h at 4 °C. The top layer of LDL was purified by fast protein liquid chromatography on a Sephacyl S4000HR column (16  $\times$  600 mm, Pharmacia Co.) using 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.4) containing 150 mM NaCl as the eluting solvent in the presence of 1 mM EDTA. The LDL was dialyzed against 50  $\mu\text{M}$  phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) containing 1  $\mu\text{M}$  EDTA for 24 h. EDTA was removed by a Sephadex G-25 column equilibrated with PBS. The purity of LDL evaluated by agarose gel electrophoresis was  $> 97\%$ . The LDL protein was determined by the bicinchoninic acid method using bovine serum albumin as a standard (Smith *et al.*, 1985).

**Determination of TBARS** – The oxidation of LDL to malondialdehyde (MDA) was measured using the thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) assay (Jeong *et al.*, 2004). Briefly, LDL (100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) in PBS (pH 7.4, final volume of 1 ml) was pre-incubated with samples, and then 10 mM AAPH was added to initiate the oxidation. The reaction mixture was incubated at 37 °C for 3 h and the reaction was terminated by adding 250  $\mu\text{L}$  of 20% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) and 250  $\mu\text{L}$  of 1% thiobarbituric acid (TBA). After boiling at 95 °C for 5 min, the mixture was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 min. The absorbance of supernatant was measured at 532 nm. BHT, caffeic acid, quercetin, vitamin C, and vitamin E were used as reference antioxidants.

## Results and Discussion

The EtOAc fraction of the MeOH extract of the root of *D. asper* was found to strongly exhibit antioxidant activity in superoxide radical scavenging assay with inhibition of 87.2% at the concentration 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ . This suggested that compounds which, are presented in EtOAc



**Fig. 1.** Chemical structures of isolated compounds **1** - **6**.

fraction, possess prominent antioxidant activity. Repeated column chromatography of this fraction led to the isolation of six phenolic compounds (**1** - **6**). According to mass spectra fragmentation patterns and the products from hydrolysis experiments, compounds **1**, **3**, and **5** exhibited  $[M + H]^+$  peaks at  $m/z$  517, which was indicated of the molecular weight of 516 corresponding to dicaffeoyl quinic acid; compounds **2**, **4**, and **6** exhibited  $[M + H]^+$  peaks at  $m/z$  531 which was indicated of the molecular weight of 530 corresponding to methyl dicaffeoyl quinic acid (Chuda *et al.*, 1998; Kwon *et al.*, 2000; Soh *et al.*, 2003). The  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR of all compounds revealed the presences of two caffeoyl groups and a quinic acid moiety; two pairs of geminal protons, H-2 (*ax*, *eq*) and H-6 (*ax*, *eq*), were symmetrical positions and observed between  $\delta$  2.02 and 2.29 ppm; H-3, H-4, and H-5 protons in the quinic acid moiety were observed

between  $\delta$  3.92 and 5.57 ppm. Of the double doublet signals, the downfield shift at the lowest frequency region was assigned to H-5 ( $\delta$  4.32 ppm with **1** and  $\delta$  4.30 ppm with **2** which was connected to hydroxyl group). The other two signals H-3 ( $\delta$  5.07 ppm) and H-4 ( $\delta$  5.57 ppm) of **1**, H-3 ( $\delta$  5.07 ppm) and H-4 ( $\delta$  5.43 ppm) of **2** indicated that the hydroxyl groups were substituted with the quinic groups. H-3 and H-4 occupied symmetrical positions in the planar structure. Moreover, because H-3 and H-4 had different stereochemical configurations (*ax* or *eq* given by the chirality), they were able to be distinguished by their coupling patterns. The  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR data of **1** revealed the presences of a quinic acid moiety characterized with two methylenes at C-2 ( $\delta$  39.2 ppm) and C-6 ( $\delta$  38.3 ppm); three oxymethines at C-3 ( $\delta$  69.2 ppm), C-4 ( $\delta$  75.5 ppm) and C-5 ( $\delta$  68.9 ppm); one quaternary carbon (C-1, 75.9 ppm) and one carboxyl group (C-7,  $\delta$  176.5 ppm). Thus, **1**

was identified as 3,4-di-*O*-caffeoyl quinic acid. The  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  data of **2** were similar to those of **1** except that one methoxyl group occurred at C-8 ( $\delta$  53.1 ppm), H-8 ( $\delta$  3.67 ppm, s) and the chemical shift of C-7 ( $\delta$  175 ppm) was observed at a lower frequency. This substitution indicated that **2** was methyl 3,4-di-*O*-caffeoylquininate (Chuda *et al.*, 1998). In the  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  of **5** and **6**, the lowest downfield shift assigned to H-3 ( $\delta$  4.28 ppm and 4.29 ppm); the others were  $\delta$  4.99 ppm (H-4),  $\delta$  5.55 ppm (H-5) of **5** and  $\delta$  5.49 ppm (H-4),  $\delta$  5.06 ppm (H-5) of **6**. Moreover, the appearance of methoxyl group and the change-over chemical shift of C-7; **3**, **4**, **5**, **6** were established to be 3,5-di-*O*-caffeoyl quinic acid; methyl 3,5-di-*O*-caffeoylquininate; 4,5-di-*O*-caffeoyl quinic acid; methyl 4,5-di-*O*-caffeoylquininate, respectively. In addition, two caffeoyl groups of all compounds were observed as a pair of nonequivalent signals with coupling constants approximately 16.0 Hz, that confirmed for the *trans* olefinic structures (Chuda *et al.*, 1998; Yoshihiro *et al.*, 1996; Kwon *et al.*, 2003) (Fig. 1).

All six isolated compounds were tested for their superoxide radical scavenging capacity. As the results showed in Table 1, it is demonstrated that all the isolates (**1** - **6**) strongly inhibited against generation of superoxide anion with the  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values ranging from 12.0  $\mu\text{M}$  to 12.8  $\mu\text{M}$ . The similar activity of six quinic acid derivatives indicated that the methyl groups of **2**, **4**, and **6** did not play any role in scavenging capacity. The activity were much stronger than that of caffeic acid ( $\text{IC}_{50}$ , 45.6  $\mu\text{M}$ ), a positive control having the same structure with compounds **1** - **6** and vitamin C ( $\text{IC}_{50}$ , 45.6  $\mu\text{M}$ ). However, all the isolates were less potent than quercetin ( $\text{IC}_{50}$ , 5.2  $\mu\text{M}$ ), and apigenin ( $\text{IC}_{50}$ , 2.4  $\mu\text{M}$ ), which were also used as other positive controls. The oxidation of LDL initiated by  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  was measured by the formation of malondialdehyde (MDA) using the TBARS assay. As shown in Table 1, compounds **1** - **6** tested remarkably reduced the formation of TBARS. They exhibited significant inhibitory activity against AAPH-mediated LDL oxidation with  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values of 8.1, 6.7, 8.2, 8.7, 7.5, and 6.9  $\mu\text{M}$ , respectively. In this experiment, quercetin, vitamin C, and vitamin E used as reference antioxidants, they showed the inhibitory activity in  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ -mediated LDL oxidation with  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values of 7.7, 25.5, and 5.8  $\mu\text{M}$ , respectively. Vitamin C was less effective, meanwhile vitamin E inhibited stronger than that of isolated compounds, **1** - **6**. Previously, the antioxidant properties of some related compounds have been also reported (Azuma *et al.*, 1999). Since quinic acid derivatives exhibited remarkable superoxide radical scavenging, it is conceivable that these natural products could be beneficial

**Table 1.** Antioxidant activities of compounds **1** - **6** against superoxide scavenging and AAPH-mediated LDL oxidation

Compounds	$\text{IC}_{50}$ ( $\mu\text{M}$ ) <sup>a</sup>	
	Superoxide scavenging	AAPH-mediated LDL <sup>b</sup>
<b>1</b>	12.3 $\pm$ 1.4	8.1 $\pm$ 0.4
<b>2</b>	12.0 $\pm$ 0.8	6.7 $\pm$ 0.6
<b>3</b>	11.4 $\pm$ 1.5	8.2 $\pm$ 0.5
<b>4</b>	12.8 $\pm$ 0.6	8.7 $\pm$ 0.5
<b>5</b>	12.5 $\pm$ 1.4	7.5 $\pm$ 0.2
<b>6</b>	11.7 $\pm$ 1.1	6.9 $\pm$ 0.3
Caffeic acid <sup>c</sup>	45.6 $\pm$ 5.8	ND
Catechin <sup>c</sup>	12.1 $\pm$ 1.4	ND
Apigenin <sup>c</sup>	2.4 $\pm$ 0.2	ND
Quercetin <sup>c</sup>	5.2 $\pm$ 0.5	7.7 $\pm$ 0.6
Vitamin C <sup>c</sup>	45.6 $\pm$ 5.0	25.5 $\pm$ 2.1
Vitamin E <sup>c</sup>	ND	5.8 $\pm$ 0.4

<sup>a</sup>  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values were determined by regression analysis and expressed as mean  $\pm$  S.D. of three replicates.

<sup>b</sup> The inhibitory activity was measured using the TBARS assay.

<sup>c</sup> Positive controls.

ND: not determined.

in preventing gout disease. This also might explain the traditional uses of *D. asper* as an agent in ethno-medicine.

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